

They are paid for with Department of Defense funds. The average American worker spends over \$1,000 a year out of his or her paycheck to support the defense function of government, and it is appropriate that American workers be allowed to make the new, innovative, energy-saving devices that we are using at bases throughout the country.

I yield to the gentleman to ask him if he wouldn't agree with me that, wherever it is practical, that American-made bulbs should be used in this replacement program.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. LIPINSKI. I certainly agree with the gentleman, and I think we need to do more to make sure we are enforcing our Buy America provisions that we currently have in law, and certainly we need to do it here.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished speaker, chairman, and gentlelady from California.

I rise to offer and to support the en bloc amendments, and to speak particularly to amendment No. 23 which regards the emotional and financial impact of multiple deployments.

This amendment is simple. It requires the Secretary of Defense to study and report back to Congress the financial and emotional impact of multiple deployments on the families of those soldiers who serve multiple tours. We all are concerned about our soldiers and, likewise, their families.

In a report by Dr. Hoge, a study indicated that 94 percent of soldiers in Iraq reported receiving small arms fire, 86 percent of soldiers in Iraq reported knowing someone who has been seriously injured or killed, and 68 percent reported seeing dead or seriously injured Americans; 51 percent reported handling or uncovering human remains; and the majority, 77 percent of soldiers deployed to Iraq, reported shooting or directing fire at the enemy. All of this impacts their families, and we found anxiety, fatigue, stress, and other aspects that impact the wives and children as well.

The National Military Families have indicated a series of recommendations for the Department of Defense. I believe this study will help the entire entity of the military make us stronger and certainly respond to the needs of our military and their families.

My amendment No. 24 recognizes that in 1948 the military was desegregated; integration had increased the percentage of African Americans in the enlisted ranks. We see high numbers of Hispanics and Asians and others. This amendment simply acknowledges the existence of the ROTC scholarship and

asks that there be an outreach to ensure that this information be given to Hispanic-serving institutions and African American-serving institutions, historically black colleges.

The importance of this amendment is to ensure the outreach and the opportunities for our young people who are placed around the Nation. Patriotism is certainly not guided by region or colleges to which you go. I ask my colleagues to support these amendments, one to take a holistic view of the redeployment and the impact on our families, and, two, to outreach to our young people no matter where they attend college and where they live for the established ROTC and other military scholarships.

I thank the chairman and ranking member for allowing me to explain my amendments to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. There is no greater champion of our men and women in uniform than my good friend Mr. SKELTON, the gentleman from Missouri, and distinguished chair of the Armed Services Committee. That is why I appreciate the chairman's support for my amendments.

Mr. Chairman, in light of the fact that our Nation is in the midst of an ugly war, and in the context of the ongoing fight against terrorism, this piece of legislation is probably the most important piece of legislation that the 110th Congress will pass. It is in that spirit that I offer my amendments today. Each of my amendments plays a vital role in ensuring that our courageous troops maintain their status as the best in the world. Accordingly my amendments also reinforce the message to our troops that they are our most precious resource, and we do not take their efforts for granted.

AMENDMENT NO. 24—SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HBCU STUDENTS

This amendment requires the Secretary of Defense to take the necessary steps to ensure that Army National Guard and Reserve ROTC scholarships are available to students attending historically black colleges and universities, and Hispanic serving institutions.

The military is the American institution that has done more than any other to recognize that it does not have a person to waste. It is therefore no surprise that the Armed Forces of the United States, which were completely segregated 60 years ago and riven by racial strife 30 years ago during the Vietnam war, is today the finest fighting force in the history of the world and enjoys more racial peace, harmony, and integration than any other major institution, including higher education and organized religion.

After being desegregated in 1948, by the 1970s, integration had increased the percentage of African-Americans in the enlisted ranks, but the percentage of minorities comprised less than 3 percent of the officer corps and perceptions of discrimination were pervasive. The deficiency in the officer corps and the discrimination perceived to be its cause led to low morale and heightened racial tension. The danger this created was not theoretical. As the Vietnam war continued, the Armed Forces suffered racial polarization, severe disciplinary problems, and racially motivated incidents in Vietnam and on posts around the world. In Vietnam, racial tensions reached a point

where there was an inability to fight and the lack of minority officers substantially exacerbated the problem.

The absence of minority officers seriously threatened the military's ability to function effectively and fulfill its mission to defend the Nation. To eliminate that threat, the armed services moved aggressively to increase the number of minority officers and to train officers in diverse educational environments. The Pentagon set recruitment goals for the service academies and the ROTC programs and worked hard to expand the pool of highly qualified minority candidates in a variety of explicitly race-conscious ways. They also employ race as a factor in recruiting and admissions policies and decisions.

These efforts have substantially increased the percentage of minority officers. Today, among active duty officers, 81 percent are white, and the remaining 19 percent are minority, including 8.8 percent African-American, 4 percent Hispanic, 3.2 percent Asian-American, and .6 percent Native American. The military recognizes that its officer corps must continue to be diverse or the cohesiveness essential to the military mission will be critically undermined. After all, for people who fight wars to preserve the peace, it can be a matter of life and death.

Presently the military, unlike any other industry including corporate America and the entertainment industry, offers a realistic opportunity for young people of color and women to make career advancements. In an industry that truly judges you on merit and not the color of your skin, the military is a leader in the practice of diversity.

This amendment ensures that people of color and women continue their great legacy in the greatest military in the world.

AMENDMENT NO. 23—EMOTIONAL AND FINANCIAL IMPACT OF MULTIPLE DEPLOYMENTS

This amendment requires the Secretary of Defense to study and report back to Congress the financial and emotional impact of multiple deployments on the families of those soldiers who serve multiple tours overseas.

Words cannot explain the pain and the sense of pride that some families feel when they say good-bye to a loved one. Behind those brave smiles, hugs, and kisses is an undying and unnerving uncertainty about what can happen to a spouse, child, father, or mother. Depending on the extent of that soldier's injury, a family can suffer serious economic consequences as a result, not to mention the emotional impact of seeing a loved one in that state. Even under the best of circumstances, where a soldier serves multiple terms and returns with no major injuries, valuable time is lost between a parent and child and between spouses that can never be returned.

The mental health of our soldiers will have a lasting effect on not only these soldiers but their families as well. The current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq are the most continuous combat operations since Vietnam. Only one comprehensive study has examined the mental health impact of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and that was performed by Charles W. Hoge, MD. This study looked at the experience of soldiers in the war zone and symptoms of psychological distress. Soldiers in Iraq are at risk for being killed or wounded themselves, are likely to have witnessed the suffering of others, and may have participated in